

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 091215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4480

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0273

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR IO MP UK

SUBJECT: MAURITIUS AND THE DIEGO GARCIA CONNECTION

REF: A) STATE 067026; B) LONDON 04408

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT SEVERAL LEVELS WOULD TEND BEAR OUT
ESTIMATE THAT RAMGOOLAM GOVERNMENT SETTING CARRY OUT "BALANCING"
EFFORT ON DIEGO GARCIA:

A) PUBLICLY, AS IN SPEECH FROM THRONE OPENING NEW
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, AND IN ACCEPTING GIFT OF PAROL CRAFT FROM
INDIA (SEPTTEL), GOM SPOKESMEN HAVE CONFINED REMARKS TO EFFECT
THAT "INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD NOT BE TRANSFORMED INTO ZONE OF CON-
FRONTATION";

B) EDITOR OF ADVANCE, DAILY NEWSPAPER OF PM, EMPHASIZED THAT HE
HAD PLAYED DOWN STORY OF POSSIBLE STATIONING F-111 AIRCRAFT ON
DIEGO, WHILE OTHER PAPERS HAD FEATURED ITEM;

C) PERMANENT SECRETARY IN PM'S OFFICE STATED THAT IN RESPONSE
TO QUESTION ON DIEGO GARCIA (BY DEV VIRAHSAWMY, SINGLE MMM-SP
DEPUTY IN PARLIAMENT) THAT WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO GIVE STRAIGHTFORWARD
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REPLY, BUT ONE DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER DISCUSSION ON

ISSUE.

2. IT SEEMS THAT OFFICIAL IN UK HIGH COMMISSION DID ASK ONE OF PM'S ADVISORS ABOUT PRIMIN'S REPORTED OFFER TO GRANT FACILITY'S TO SOVIET ADVISOR IN TURN INFORMED PM OF THIS QUESTIONING; LATTER REPORTEDLY GUFFAWED AND STATED "I KNEW IT WOULD COME BACK TO ME IN THIS WAY."

3. COMMENT: SOVIET FISHERIES DELEGATION ARRIVED MAURITIUS APRIL 6. IN THEIR PRESENCE AT RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION, APRIL 8, PRIME MINISTER CALLED AMBASSADOR BANDOURA TOGETHER WITH CHARGE AND EMOTIONALLY EXHORTED BIG POWERS TO GET TOGETHER TO KEEP THIS REGION FREE OF CONFLICT. DR. RAM IS SCHEDULED LEAVE ON APRIL 10 FOR SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON ENERGY, AND WE UNDERSTAND INTENDS TO TAKE UP WITH FCO ON HIS RETURN VIA LONDON HIS POSTION THAT UK HAS VIOLATED SENSE OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA.
SULLIVAN

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